

# Typhoon season hits Kunsan

## *Readiness flight offers severe weather safety tips*

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Summer at Kunsan brings warm weather and longer days. However, it's also the beginning of typhoon season on the peninsula, which lasts from June until November. Wolf Pack members are encouraged to watch the latest weather forecasts and take proper precautions in the event of bad weather. Below is useful information about severe weather common to this area.

### **Know your storms**

A tropical storm occurs when winds reach speeds of 34 mph or greater. As the storm continues to grow, and winds reach speeds of 64 mph or greater and start moving in a counter-clockwise rotation, it becomes a typhoon.

Typhoons have the same characteristics as hurricanes; however, they are called typhoons in the Pacific region. Typhoons do most of their damage through high-sustained winds, heavy rains, high waves and flooding. Kunsan is in a low-lying area so flooding is a major concern.

Other hazards that may occur with typhoons are frequent lightning, tornadoes and a storm surge. This surge can cause winds up to 140 mph and high waves. If maximum winds reach a speed of 150 mph or greater, the storm will be classified as a super typhoon, one of the most deadly storms on Earth.

Kunsan and the surrounding areas are susceptible to floods when heavy rains occur. Monsoon season is from May through September, which may bring heavy rains. Past monssons have dropped more than 26 inches of rain in a 24-hour period here. Such rains have the potential to do major damage to facilities and infrastructure.

### **Preparation**

Actions taken before a typhoon are vital to quick base recovery. Ensure that military vehicles are dispersed and secured in open areas away from power lines and possible falling tree limbs. Because there are no typhoon or severe weather shelters on Kunsan Air Base, members should take shelter wherever they can. Taping or boarding up windows may be necessary. Try to get as low in a building as possible and put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.

During a monsoon or severe flooding, take proper precautions to stay out of low-lying areas. Move high value equipment from areas that might flood to higher ground. Units are required to keep sandbags on hand to prevent water from entering facilities, and to keep ditches and gullies free of debris.

All personnel should have a disaster kit. At the very minimum, the following items should be included in the kit: battery-powered clocks, radios, flashlights and extra batteries, food items such as potable water and canned and non-perishable foods. Picking up prescription medication and having a first-aid kit is also highly recommended.

Stay tuned to crash nets, Commander's Access Channel 4, and Armed Forces' Network-Korea radio broadcasts for current information concerning weather conditions of readiness, typhoon watches and warnings.

### **Recovery actions**

After the storm has passed recovery operations should begin as quickly and safely as possible. Assess surrounding area for damage and possible hazards such as flooding or downed power lines. If in a vehicle, don't try to cross water if you are unsure of its depth.

Report damage to the proper agency. When in doubt of which agency to call, dial 911. Help where you can, but always think about personal safety first. For more information about severe weather safety, call 782-4849.



## Watch:

*A watch means that typhoon conditions are imminent for a specific area of the coast.*

## Warning:

*A warning identifies coastal areas where wind speeds of at least 74 mph are expected to occur.*

### Typhoon Conditions of Readiness

**Typhoon COR 4:** Winds of 50 knots or more expected within 72 hours.

**Typhoon COR 3:** Winds of 50 knots or more expected within 48 hours.

**Typhoon COR 2:** Winds of 50 knots or more expected within 24 hours.

**Typhoon COR 1:** Winds of 50 knots or more expected within 12 hours.

**All Clear:** Destructive winds have passed.

*The 607th Weather Squadron and 8th Operations Support Squadron weather flight will issue typhoon conditions for Kunsan and the surrounding area in the event of a typhoon threat.*